

Lignite Public Service Award

Outstanding service by public official to the lignite industry.

- 1987 - Governor George Sinner
- 1988 - Senator Don Moore, County Commissioner Ed Schulz, & Asst. Secretary Allen Wampler, DOE
- 1989 - State Representative William Goetz & State Senator Harvey Tallackson
- 1990 - United States Senator Kent Conrad
- 1991 - State Senator Joe Keller
- 1992 - Karlene Fine, Industrial Commission
Rep. Ben Tollefson
- 1993 - Senator Layton Freborg
Senator Larry Robinson
Representative John Dorso
- 1994 - Governor Ed Schafer
Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp
Ag Commissioner Sarah Vogel
- 1995 - Lyle Witham, Asst. Attorney General
Don Gilchrist, former BLM Chief
- 1996 - Ed Englerth, ND Public Service Comm.
- 1997 - State Senator Gary Nelson
State Senator Vern Thompson
State Representative Mick Grosz
State Representative Lyle Hanson
Dennis Fewless, ND Dept. of Health
- 1998 - Adolph Miller, Mercer County Comm.
- 1999 - Bruce Hagen, ND PSC
- 2000 - Kirk Johnson, Senator Conrad's Office
- 2001 - Francis "Fritz" Schwindt, ND Dept. of Health
- 2002 - John Hoeven, Governor of North Dakota
- 2003 - David Glatt, ND Dept. of Health
- 2004 - Al Christianson, Mayor of Washburn
Gary Allard, Mayor of Beulah
- 2005 - Wayne Stenehjem, ND Attorney General
Martin Schock, ND Health Department
Roger Collins, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- 2006 - Tom Bachman, ND Dept. of Health
Dean Hildebrand, former Game & Fish Director
- 2007 - Randy Christmann, ND Senator
David O'Connell, ND Senator
Alan Carlson, ND Representative
Joe Kroeber, ND Representative
- 2008 - Rich Wardner, ND Senator
Charles Carvell – ND AG Office
- 2009 - Dwight Cook, ND Senator
- 2010 - Blair Thoreson, ND Representative
James Kerzman, ND Representative
- 2011 - Senator Bob Stenehjem
Karlene Fine, ND Industrial Commission
- 2012 - Layton Freborg, ND Senator
- 2013 – Todd Porter, ND Representative
- 2014 – Wayne Stenehjem – ND Attorney General
- Given in Spring for previous year**
- 2016 – Jack Dalrymple – ND Governor

Ambassador of Lignite Award

Years of outstanding service to the lignite industry by retiring industry personnel.

- 1987 - Lloyd Hillier Minnkota Power
- 1988 - Art Kane, Knife River Mining Co.
- 1989 - Larry Rutherford, Baukol-Noonan, Inc.
Don Vraspir, Otter Tail Power Company
Wally Kroeber, Montana-Dakota Utilities Company
Don Kettner, United Power Association
Ralph Sullivan, Cooperative Power
- 1990 - Lyle Lund, Minnkota Power
- 1991 - Alvin J. "Sparky" Wittmaier, KRCCMC
- 1992 - Wally Stigen, OTP
Con Aas, NSP
- 1993 - Philip Martin, UPA
- 1994 - Joe Maichel, MDU
Ron Bertoch, BNI Coal, Ltd.
Marv Leer, United Power Association
- 1996 - Frank Mattern, Cooperative Power
Loren Stadig, United Power Association
- 1997 - Merrill Lewis, Minnkota Power Cooperative
- 1999 - Gary Jacobson, Basin Electric
Ken Ziegler, Basin Electric
August Keller, NACCO
Tony Rude, Great River Energy
- 2000 - Bob McPhail, Basin Electric
Bruce Hagen, PSC
- 2001 - Wayne Tanous, MDU Resources Group
Clifford Porter, Lignite Energy Council
- 2002 - Marlowe Johnson, Otter Tail Power Co.
- 2003 - Jim Roberts, Minnesota Power
- 2004 - John Bluemle, ND Geological Survey
- 2005 - Cathi Christopherson, MDU
Jim Van Epps, Great River Energy
- 2006 - Bob Wood, MDU Resources Group
Fletcher Poling, Basin Electric
- 2008 - David Schouweiler, BNI Coal, Ltd.
Fred Stern, Dakota Gasification Company
Steve Hovey, BNI Coal, Ltd.
Dennis Boyd, MDU Resources Group
Dan Sharp, MDU Resources Group
- 2009 - Mike Hummel, BNI Coal, Ltd.
Stuart Libby, Minnkota Power Cooperative
Duane Steen, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
- 2010 - Clint Wanek, The Falkirk Mining Co.
Dean Peterson, North American Coal Corp.
David Loer, Minnkota Power Cooperative
- 2011 - Marc Schulz, The Coteau Properties Co.
Jim Ronholdt, BNI Coal, Ltd.
- 2012 - Stan Brannin, Basin Hydraulics
Terry Hildestad, MDU Resources
- 2013- Curtis Jabs, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
John Dwyer, Lignite Energy Council
Daryl Hill, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 2014 – Bob Eriksen, Basin Electric Power Cooperative,
Renee Walz, Lignite Energy Council
Luther Kvermen, Minnkota Power Cooperative

John Lebersback, SaskPower
Doug Mahowald – MDU
David Sogard – Minnkota Power Cooperative
Larry Wood – Wire rope Works, Inc.
Jim Huncovsky – Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Given in the Fall or Spring for current year

2015 - Richard Elliz – AZCO
Don Boehm – Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Bob Fagerstrom – Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Dakota Gasification)
Bob Ambrose – Great River Energy
Diane Stockdill – Great River Energy
Bob Benson – North American Coal
Robert Swanson – Swanson & Youngdale

2016 (Spring)

Pat Clement – BNI Coal, Ltd.
Rick Matteson – MDU Resources

Community Service Award

Service to the Community

- 2006 - Mike Hummel, BNI Coal
Ron Harper, Basin Electric Power
- 2008 - Basin Electric Power Cooperative Employees
- 2009 - Otter Tail Power Company – Chuck
MacFarlane
- 2010 - Basin Electric Power Cooperative;
Minnesota Power; The North American Coal Corporation; Otter Tail Power Co.;
MDU Resources Foundation; Xcel Energy; Crowley Fleck PLLP; United Printing
- 2011 - Basin Electric Power Cooperative, MDU Resources Group, Great River Energy,
The North American Coal Corporation
- 2012 - Dakota Westmoreland Employees
- 2013 - Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
- 2014 - Minnkota Power Cooperative – Kevin Fee
Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Tracie Bettenhausen, Karen Will, Lindsey DeKrey, Darrell Schulz
Minnkota Power Cooperative/BNI Coal, Ltd.
North American Coal

Given in the Fall for current year

- 2015 - Industrial Contractors, Inc. (ICI)

Lignite Contractor/Supplier Award

Outstanding service to the Lignite Energy Council by a Contractor/Supplier member.

- 1987 - Matt Butler, Butler Machinery Company (Lignite Energizer Award)
- 1988 - Jeff Reiser, MN Valley Testing & Tom Geering, Highway Machine Company
- 1989 - Jim Watson, ICI Tribol
- 1990 - Larry Sweeney, Sweeney Brothers
- 1991 - Tom "Frenchy" Perreault, Indus. Lub.
- 1992 - Glen Wise, Butler Machinery
- 1993 - Joe Woodmansee, Woodmansee's
- 1994 - Harvey Albrecht, Ind. Tool & Repair
- 1995 - Jerry Grosz, General Trading Co.
- 1996 - John Borud, Minot Steel & Tube, Inc.
- 1997 - Duane Tietz, CrossCountry Courier
Dave Polsfuss, Interstate Detroit Diesel
- 1998 - Merle Zander, Farstad Oil
Dale Preszler, ServiceMaster of Central ND, Inc.
- 1999 - George Finley, Rocky Mt. Brake Supply
- 2000 - Border States Electric – Gary Miller, Herb Carpenter, Ike Carpenter, Curt Bethke, & Dick Melchior
- 2001 - Industrial Contractors, Inc. – Robert Nelson, John Engelhardt, & Darris Job
- 2002 - Mike Bergman, Vallen Safety Supply
- 2003 - Val Lundin, Motion Industries
- 2004 - Robert Swanson, Swanson & Youngdale
- 2005 - Mark Peterson, Westcon Industries
- 2006 - Don Pesek, Northern Water Works Supply
- 2007 - Rod Reetz, MVTL Laboratories, Inc.
- 2008 - Pat Finken, Odney Advertising
- 2009 - Curt Latendresse, Central Machining and Pump Repair
- 2010 - Jean Hins, Weber's Maintenance Service
- 2011 - Philip Solseng, Barr Engineering
- 2012 - Lloyd Bushong, Industrial Contractors, Inc.
- 2013 - Baranko Bros Inc.
- 2014 - RDO Equipment Company

Given in Fall for current year

Distinguished Service Award - Research & Development

Outstanding service to the Lignite Energy Council's research & development program by industry personnel

- 1992 - Curt Blohm, KRCMC
- 1993 - Chuck Reichert, BNI Coal, Ltd.
Steve Sherner, Minnesota Power
- 1994 - Kent Janssen, Dakota Gasification Co.
- 1995 - Curt Melland, Basin Electric
- 1996 - Fred Kuhn, Dakota Gasification Co.
- 1997 - Steve Benson, Microbeam Technologies
William Peterson, BNI Coal, Ltd.
Dick Schwalbe, Minnkota Power
- 1998 - Andy Stewart, Cooperative Power
- 1999 - Clifford Porter, Lignite Energy Council
- 2000 - EERC – Steve Benson, John Pavlish,
Gerry Groenwold
- 2001 - John Weeda, Coal Creek Station
John Pelerine, Stanton Station
- 2002 - Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy
Dennis James, The Falkirk Mining Co.
- 2003 - Dr. Steve Benson, Michael Holmes & John Pavlish, EERC,
Clyde Bush, Basin Electric
Luther Kvermen, Minnkota Power
- 2004 - Charlie Bullinger, Great River Energy
Mark Ness, Great River Energy
Rich Weinstein, Falkirk Mine
- 2005 - Mike Paul, Basin Electric
John Weeda, Great River Energy
- 2006 - Dave Schmitz, Basin Electric
Bob Stobbs, Canadian Clean Power Coalition
- 2007 - Diane Stockdill, Great River Energy
Scott Klara, DOE, NETL
- 2008 - Mike Jones & Steve Benson, EERC
- 2009 - Ed Steadman & John Harju, EERC
- 2010 - James Sheldon, Basin Electric
Charlie Bullinger, Great River Energy
- 2011 - Dave Smith, SaskPower
- 2012 - Doug Daverne, SaskPower
Michael Monea, SaskPower
- 2013 - William Sawyer, Minnesota Power
- 2014 - Phillip Solseng, Barr Engineering
John Lee, Barr Engineering

Given in Spring for previous year

Distinguished Service Award - Legislative Program

Outstanding service by industry personnel to the Lignite Energy Council's legislative program.

- 1987 - Kent Janssen, Basin Electric
- 1988 - Mary Ann Johnson, Knife River Corp. & Dean Peterson, North American Coal Corp.
- 1989 - Bob Benson, North American Coal Corp.,
- 1990 - Rich Fockler, Basin Electric
- 1991 - Bob Wood, MDU
Jim Hepp, MN Power
- 1992 - George Bartholomew, Basin
Bob Wood, MDU
- 1993 - Duane Steen, MDU
Ron Bertoch, BNI Coal, Ltd.
Dennis Boyd, MDU
Steve Schultz, Otter Tail Power
- 1994 - Bill Suter, Coteau Properties Co.
Daryl Hill, Basin Electric
- 1995 - Bob Benson, The Coteau Properties Co.
- 1997 - Dean Peterson, North American Coal
Mary Ann Johnson, Knife River Corp.
Mike Hummel, BNI Coal, Ltd.
Gary Jacobson, Basin Electric
Fletcher Poling, Basin Electric
Dennis Boyd, MDU Resources Group
Steve Schultz, Otter Tail Power Co.
Bruce Kopp, Northern States Power
Lynette Pederson, Northern States Power
- 1998 - Wayne Otterness, Basin Electric
Steve Schultz, Otter Tail Power Co.
Gary Andersen, Modern Industrial Inc.
Herb Carpenter, Border States Electric
- 2000 - CoalPAC Golf Committee
CoalPAC Walk Run Committee
- 2001 - Dean Peterson, The North American Coal Corporation
- 2002 - COALPAC Golf Committee
COALPAC Walk/Run Committee
- 2003 - Wayne Otterness, BEPC (Retired)
- 2004 - Herb Carpenter, Curt Bethke, Dick Melchior, Jake Jacobson, Border States Electric
- 2005 - Curtis Jabs, Mike Eggl, Dale Niezwaag, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Dean Peterson, North American Coal
- 2006 - Bill Libro, ALLETE/MN Power
Will Kaul, Great River Energy
- 2007 - CoalPAC Golf Committee
CoalPAC Walk/Run Committee
- 2008 - Jeff Kuch, Great River Energy
- 2009 - Curtis Jabs, Basin Electric;
Duane Steen, MDU; Abbie Krebsbach, MDU
- 2010 - Al Christianson, Great River Energy
- 2012 - Gary Andersen, Esco Supply; Greg Dehne – The Falkirk Mining Co.; Randy Leinius – Great River Energy;
Brent Sullivan, The Coteau Properties Co.; John Weeda, Great River Energy;
Larry Wood, Wire Rope Works, Inc.
- 2013 - Sandi Tabor, KLJ
Jim Melchior, North American Coal Royalty Company

Distinguished Service Award - Legislative Program

Given in Spring for previous year

- 2016 – Jay Kost, Falkirk Mining Company

Distinguished Service Award - Regulatory Program

Outstanding service to the Lignite Energy Council's regulatory program by industry personnel.

- 1987 - Alan Hurlbut, Baukol-Noonan, Inc., John Shultz, Basin Cooperative Services, Greg Smestad, Knife River Coal Mining Co. & Bill Kirk, North American Coal Corporation
- 1988 - Mary Ann Johnson, Knife River Coal Mining Co., Andrea Stomberg, North American Coal Corp., Dave Nilson, Basin Cooperative Services, & JoLynn Leindecker, Baukol-Noonan, Inc.
- 1989 - Jim K. Miller, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 1990 - Dave Schouweiler, BNI Coal, Ltd.
- 1991 - Jim Melchior - NACCO
- 1992 - Mike Pole, MDU
- 1993 - Rick Patzman, MDU (formerly CPA)
- 1994 - John Graves, Minnkota Power
Joe Friedlander, Coteau Properties Co.
- 1995 - George Hawkey, Coteau Properties Co.
Jim Berg, Basin Electric Power Coop.
- 1996 - Greg Smestad, Knife River Coal
- 1998 - Randy Crooke, The Falkirk Mining Co.
- 2003 - Joe Friedlander, The Coteau Properties Co.
- 2004 - Joe Friedlander, Freedom Mine;
Dave Schouweiler, Center Mine;
Troy Leingang, Falkirk Mine;
Mike Altavilla, Beulah Mine
- 2005 - Bob Eriksen, Basin Electric; Cris Miller, Basin Electric; Steve Hovey, BNI Coal; Mike Altavilla, Dakota Westmoreland; Bonnie Turner, Westmoreland Coal Co.; Steve Benson, EERC; Mike Holmes, EERC; John Pavlish, EERC; Dennis James, Falkirk Mining Co.; Rich Voss, Great Northern Power Development; Diane Stockdill, Great River Energy; Mark Strohfus, Great River Energy; Brandon Krogh, Minnesota Power; John Graves, Minnkota Power; Jay Skabo, MDU; Terry Graumann, Otter Tail Power
- 2009 - Kevin Cramer, Tony Clark & Brian Kalk, ND Public Service Commission
- 2010 - Lyle Witham, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 2011 - Andrea Stomberg, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.;
Basin Electric Power Cooperative – External Relations & Communications Dept.
- 2012 - Randy Crooke, The Falkirk Mining Company
Mac McLennan, Minnkota Power Cooperative; David Sogard, Minnkota Power Cooperative;
Kevin Fee, Minnkota Power Cooperative; John Graves, Minnkota Power Cooperative;
Mike Eggl, Basin Electric Power Cooperative; Lyle Witham, Basin Electric Power Cooperative;
Curtis Jabs, Basin Electric Power Cooperative; Mary Klecker-Green, Basin Electric Power Cooperative;
Deb Levchak, Basin Electric Power Cooperative; Mary Jo Roth, Great River Energy;
Bob Ambrose, Great River Energy
Sandi Tabor, Lignite Energy Council
- 2013 - Jay Volk, BNI Coal, Ltd.
- 2014 - John Graves, Minnkota Power Cooperative
- Given in Spring for previous year**
- 2016 – Randy Christmann, ND Public Service Commission

Distinguished Service Award - Education and Public Relations Program

Outstanding service to the Lignite Energy Council's education and public relations program by industry personnel.

- 1987 - Doug Stone, North American Coal Corporation
- 1988 - Laurie Kupcho, North American Coal Corporation & Seminar Staff
- 1989 - Jim Kramer, BNI Coal
- 1990 - Basin Electric's Communications Services Division, Member and
Public Communications Division
- 1991 - Jack Pippenger, Coteau Properties Co.
David Loer & Minnkota
- 1992 - Jon Metropoulos & Sharron Waddingham, MDU
Karen Will, Basin Electric
- 1993 - Jerry Fiskum, Mel Nelson, Dave Jameson, Minnkota Power Department of Marketing &
Public Relations; Dave Loer, Minnkota Power
- 1994 - Tim Rasmussen, MDU
Mel Nelson, Minnkota Power
- 1995 - Max Herbach, Minnesota Power
Steve Simons, Cooperative Power
- 1996 - Mel Nelson, Minnkota Power
- 1997 - John Warren, Cooperative Power
Warren Hudelson, Minnesota Power
- 1998 - Rod Nibbe, Knife River Corporation
Mary Jo Sinner & Dewey Heggen, Basin Electric
- 1999 - Jim Kramer, BNI Coal, Ltd.
- 2000 - Jeff Beck, Magic City Campus, Minot, ND
Cynthia Clausnitzer, Hughes Middle School, Bismarck, ND
- 2001 - Nirander Safaya, ND Public Service Comm.
Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Karen Will, Ompie Adams & Terry Diekman
- 2002 - Lyndon Anderson, Lignite Energy Council
- 2003 - Diane Stockdill, Great River Energy
Sheryl Massey, Basin Electric
Floyd Robb, Ompie Adams, Ted Cash & Karen Will, Basin Electric
- 2004 - Greg Wheeler, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 2005 - Roger Johnson, ND Department of Agriculture; Rick Lancaster, GRE; Floyd Robb, Basin Electric
- 2006 - Fred Stern, Dakota Gasification Company
PAE Ad Sub-committee: Floyd Robb, BEPC, Margaret Hodnik, MN Power, Cris Kling, OTP,
Therese LaCanne, GRE
- 2007 - Joe Friedlander, The Coteau Properties Co.
Hank LaBore, Teacher
John Weeda, Great River Energy
- 2008 - Dr. Wayne Sanstead, DPI
David Farnsworth, Great River Energy
Marsha Kelly, Kelly Media Counsel
- 2009 - Greg Wheeler, Duey Marthaller & Electric Anika Schaff, Basin Electric
- 2010 - Pat Clement, BNI Coal Ltd.; Brian Rebel, Butler Machinery Co.; Tony Stroh, MDU, Heskett Station;
Kay LaCoe, Lignite Energy Council; Daryl Hill, Basin Electric; Ed Murphy, ND Geological Survey
- 2011 - Floyd Robb, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 2012 - Greg Wheeler, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Carl Pederson, NDSU
- 2013 - Randy Crooke, The Falkirk Mining Company
Doyle Johannes, ND Farmer

Distinguished Service Award - Public Relations Program

2014 - Cris Oehler – Otter Tail Power Company

Given in Spring for previous year

2016 – Wayne Boeshans, BNI Coal, Ltd.

Distinguished Service Award - Education Program

2014 - Jay Volk, BNI Coal, Ltd.

Given in Spring for Previous Year

2016 – Kent Ellis, Bismarck Public Schools

Lignite Leadership Award

Given to the outgoing chairman.

1987 - A.J. “Sparky” Wittmaier, Knife River Corp.

1989 - Ron Bertoch, BNI Coal, Ltd.

1991 - Rich Fockler, Basin Cooperative Svcs.

1993 - Rich Fockler, Basin Electric

1994 - Ernie Fleck, Fleck, Mather & Strutz

1995 - Doug Kane, MDU Resources Group

1997 - Dan Swetich, The Falkirk Mining Co.

1998 - Kent Janssen, Dakota Gasification Co.

1999 - Matt Butler, Butler Machinery Company

2001 - Terry Hildestad, Knife River Corp.

2003 - David Loer, Minnkota Power

2005 - Ron Harper, Basin Electric

2007 - Don Shippar, Minnesota Power

2009 - David Saggau, Great River Energy

2011 - Bob Benson, The North American Coal Corp.

2013 - Al Hodnik, Minnesota Power / ALLETE

Given in Spring for previous year (even numbered years)

2016 – Mac McLennan, Minnkota Power Cooperative

Lignite Lifetime Achievement Award

Recipient had a long successful career in the lignite industry, with a majority of that time being spent in the Fort Union lignite region.

2013 - John Dwyer, Lignite Energy Council

2015 - Bob Benson, North American Coal